

# Godliness vs. Materialism

1 Timothy 6:6-10

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# Defining Our Terms

- Godliness
    - Literally “piety”
    - Reverence and devotion to God
    - Used by Paul and Peter
      - 1 Tim: 2:2; 2:10; 3:16; 4:7; 4:8; 6:3; 6:5; 6:6; 6:11
      - 2 Tim: 3:5
      - Titus 1:1
      - 2 Peter: 1:3; 1:6; 1:7; 3:11
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# Defining Our Terms

- Contentment
    - A state of mind where you feel that what you have is sufficient. Luke 3:14; Philippians 4:11; 1 Tim 6:8; Heb 13:5; 3 John 1:10
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## So What is Great Gain?

Living a life with reverence and devotion to God, and being satisfied that what you have is sufficient.

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# Why?

- “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” – 1 Tim 6:7
    - We cannot take anything material with us – Job 1:21
    - But we can have an incorruptible treasure – Matt 6:19-20; Gal 6:7-8; 2 Tim 4:7-8; Prov 11:4
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# Why?

- We can have something that eludes much of the world
    - We can have contentment
    - And confidence that “God will provide” – Gen. 22:8
    - Philippians 4:11; Matt 6:25-34; Prov 16:16-17; Eccl 4:6; Eccl 5:10-17
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## Why?

- We can avoid many of the miseries of this life – 1 Tim 6:9-10; Gal 6:7-8
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# Defining Some More Terms

- Love of money – *Philarguria*
    - Love – a deep, affectionate love.
      - The kind of love and affection that a woman would have for her husband and children. Titus 2:3-4
    - Money – Literally “silver”
  - Materialism – “An interest in and desire for money, possessions, etc, rather than spiritual or ethical values” -- World English Dictionary
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# Defining Some More Terms

- “all evil”
    - All kinds of, or some of all types of, evil
    - All the major branches of worldliness.
- 1 John 2:16
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# Defining Our Terms

- “all evil”
    - Examples
      - Lying – Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-10
      - Stealing – Achan Joshua 7
      - Betrayal – Judas
      - Murder – Ahab and Jezebel 1 Kings 21
      - Selfishness – Nabal, 1 Sam 25, and the Rich Man of Luke 16
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# Materialism

- One of Satan's most productive snares
    - Materialism appeals on so many levels –
      - 1 John 2:16
        - Lust of the flesh – James 4:3
        - Lust of the eyes – “When I saw...” Joshua 7:21
        - Pride of life – So many people define themselves, and others, by their possessions
    - Satan even tried to use materialism to tempt Jesus – Matt. 4:8-10
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# Consequences of Materialism

- Personal – 2 Tim 6:9-10
    - God has never accepted divided loyalty
      - No man can serve two masters. God requires our full commitment –  
Matt 6:19-34; Rev 3:16-17
      - We will make a choice. There is no middle ground – Joshua 24:14-15; 1 Kings 18:21;  
Matt 19:16-24
    - Materialism will make us idolaters –  
Col 3:5
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# Consequences of Materialism

- Personal
    - It will choke the word of God out of our hearts (Matt 13:3-8, 18-23; 2 Tim 4:10), and cost us our faith (Rom 10:17)
    - Materialism will make us trade the eternal for the corruptible – Matt 16:26; Luke 12:15-21; Matt 6:19-20
    - Reliance on the material will blind us to our spiritual needs – Rev 3:17
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# Consequences of Materialism

- Personal
    - Materialism robs us of contentment and satisfaction – James 4:1-3
    - It draws us away from sound doctrine – 2 Tim 4:3-4
    - We give things and people power over us – 1 Cor 6:12
    - We cannot escape the consequences – Gal 6:7-8
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# Consequences of Materialism

- Family – Eph 6:4; Eph 5:25, 28-33
    - Materialism takes precious time from family
      - Spouse – Eph 5:29
      - Children – Eph 6:4
    - It robs children of a good example
    - Examples: Achan, Nabal, David, Solomon, Ananias and Sapphira
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# Consequences of Materialism

- Church
    - Materialism robs churches of workers – 2 Tim. 4:10
    - It affects attendance – Matt 13:3-8, 18-23
    - It affects the contribution – 2 Cor 9:7
    - Ultimately it compromises the ability of the church to fulfill its mission
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# Am I Materialistic?

- Contentment
    - Am I content?
    - Where do I seek contentment/happiness?
    - Where are my priorities:
      - In spending my time?
      - In choosing my friends?
      - In choosing my career?
      - What kind of people do I date?
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## Am I Materialistic?

- Am I selfish? Gal 6:9-10; James 1:27;  
1 John 3:17; Eccl 11:1-2; Psalm 41:1
  - What am I willing to do to get what I want?
  - What would I do to keep what I have?  
Matt 19:16-22
  - What place do my possessions occupy in my life?
  - What impresses me? James 2:1-4
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## Am I Materialistic?

- Is it wrong to want to provide well for my family? 1 Tim 5:8; 2 Thess 3:10
  - Is Matt 6:25-34 saying I'm materialistic if I plan for the future? Prov 6:6-11; Prov 10:4-5; Prov 20:4; Prov 31:10-31; James 4:13-16; Luke 12:16-21
  - It is not wrong to enjoy God's blessings – Eccl 2:24-26; Eccl 5:18-20
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# Am I Materialistic?

- Is money/material wealth inherently bad?
    - God blessed many of his people with riches: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, etc.
    - It's a matter of perspective and priorities – Ecclesiastes
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# How Do I Combat Materialism

- Choose the right goal, and keep your eyes on that goal – 1 Cor 9:23-27; 2 Tim 4:6-8; Heb 12:1-3
  - Choose the right companions – 1 Cor 15:33; Amos 3:3
  - Always be vigilant – 1 Cor 10:12; Prov. 16:18
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# How Do I Combat Materialism

- Do not envy the people of the world –  
Prov 24:1-2, 19-20
  - Do not look back – Num 11:4-5
  - Remember where true value lies –  
2 Tim 6:6-7; Job 1:21
    - Your soul – Matt 16:26; Mark 8:36; Matt 6:20
    - Your family
    - Christian fellowship
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# How Do I Combat Materialism

- Trust in God's promises – Matt 6:25-34; Prov 3:7-10; Ps 37:25
  - Do not become entangled in the material – 2 Tim 2:3-4; 1 Tim 6:8
    - Do not develop a taste for the material – Heb 11:24-25
    - Avoid debt and other worldly obligations – Prov 22:7; 2 Cor 6:14
    - Consider the influence of your friends
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# How Do I Combat Materialism

- When you need strength and faith:
    - Go to the source – Rom 10:17
    - Ask for it – Luke 17:5; 1 Cor 10:13
    - Go to the right people for help –  
Rom 14:19; 1 Thess 5:11; Prov 17:17;  
Prov 18:24
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